setting up of Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs), estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum as may be fixed from time to time, by notification by the Central Government. As per the CEA's guidelines, if an HEP is found to be technically acceptable with necessary inputs/clearances, the Authority shall accord concurrence for its implementation, as far as practicable within a period of 90 (ninety) working days from the date of submission of 22 copies of DPR, complete in all respects.

(b) While according technical clearance to all HEP, the CEA takes the assistance of Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Geological Survey of India (GSI) etc. to ensure whether adequate studies have been made for optimum location of dam and other river works. The CEA also consults the State Government or Central Government or such other Government agencies as deemed appropriate.

For the years from 2003-04 to 2009-10 (upto 15.12.2009) average time taken to accord concurrence has been varying from 14 days to 49 days, however, the time taken for three projects, namely, Singoli Bhatwari HEP, Alaknanda HEP and Rupsiabagar Khasiabara HEP in Uttarakhand has been more than the time planned by CEA. This has been mainly due to non-resolution of issues related to design of various civil structures between the developer and Central Water Commission (CWC) as also longer time taken in obtaining clearance from Geological Survey of India (GSI) on account of inadequate geological investigations.

(c) Single window clearance of HEPs for according technical concurrence has been implemented in CEA. The Office of the Secretary, CEA is acting as single window in CEA and the project developers have to interact with this office only.

Appointment of judges

*446.SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding appointment of High Court judges during 2005 to 2008, year-wise;

(b) how many from the above were women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Class and minority category; and

(c) the total number of judges in the Supreme Court and the number of vacancies as on 1 July, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) During the calendar years 2005 to 2008, the following number of High Court Judges were appointed:

Calendar year	Number of High Court Judges appointed
2005	86
2006	110
2007	59
2008	78

(b) Out of the above, total number of women Judges appointed was 26. Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Article 217 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Hence, statistics on caste or religious background of Judges is not maintained.

(c) Against the approved strength of 31 Judges of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of India, 24 Judges were in position as on 1.7.2009 leaving 7 vacancies to be filled up.

Implementation of RGGVY in Bihar

*447. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in various districts of Bihar indicating the village electrification infrastructure and the number of households benefited under this scheme;

(b) the number of Below Poverty Line/Scheduled Caste houses proposed to be electrified under this scheme during the current year;

(c) the funds allocated to the State under this scheme during the previous and the current year;

(d) whether funds have been fully utilized by the State Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), 43 Projects for 38 districts covering 23,211 un/de-electrified villages and 27.62 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) households have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.2975.89 crores for the State of Bihar. Rs.2486.44 crores have been released to the State of Bihar upto 30.11.2009. Cumulatively, 17,520 unelectrified villages have been electrified and 8.53 lakh BPL connections have been released upto 30.11.2009. The District-wise coverage and achievement of un/de-electrifled villages and release of BPL connections for the sanctioned projects under RGGVY in Bihar, is given in the statement (see below).

(b) 3,10,200 BPL connections including Scheduled Caste BPL households are proposed to be released during the year 2009-10 under the sanctioned projects of RGGVY in Bihar. During current year, as on 30.11.2009, electricity connections to 3,10,995 BPL households have been released.

(c) to (e) There is no upfront allocation of funds for any State including Bihar under RGGVY. The funds are released in installments based on the utilization of previous installments. Rs.695.90 crore during 2008-09 and Rs.192.80 crore during 2009-10 (till 30.11.2009) have been disbursed in Bihar.